

Members

Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chair
Rep. Paul Robertson
Rep. Robert Cherry
Rep. Dan Leonard
Sen. Robert Jackman
Sen. Greg Walker
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Richard Young



NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

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Authority: IC 2-5-5-1

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: July 26, 2007
Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chair; Rep. Robert Cherry; Rep. Dan Leonard;
Sen. James Lewis.

Members Absent: Rep. Paul Robertson; Sen. Robert Jackman; Sen. Greg Walker; Sen.
Richard Young.

Call to Order. Rep. Robert Bischoff called the meeting to order. After an introduction of the committee members, Rep. Bischoff asked the committee for possible meeting dates and locations for upcoming committee meetings.

John Davis, Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provided the committee with an overview of possible meeting sites at the state parks.

The committee agreed to meet on the following dates and locations:

September 11 & 12, 2007, Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center,
201 W. Riverside Dr., Clarksville (812-280-9970)
1:00 p.m. on the 11th and probably 9:00 a.m. on the 12th.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

October 2 & 3, 2007, Brown County State Park Nature Center,
1405 State Road 46 West, Nashville (812-988-6406)
1:00 p.m. on the 2nd and probably 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd.

There may be a final meeting in the Indianapolis area if the budget permits.

Study Topics. Rep Bischoff reviewed possible topics for upcoming committee meetings. Rep. Bischoff explained that Legislative Council Resolution 07-01 referred the following topics to the NRSC:

1. Impact of Invasive Species (HCR 86 and SCR 75)
2. Indiana's Archaeological and Burial Ground Laws (HR 103)

Other Topics: Rep Bischoff listed the following topics for consideration by the committee:

1. Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and Courthouse Preservation: Historic Landmarks Foundation requested that the committee study ways to enhance the effectiveness of this credit, including potential improvements to tracking, usage, and maximum annual usage of the credit.
2. Hunting and Fishing Opportunities at Big Oak: Gary Johnson, Laughery Valley Fish & Game Club, had expressed an interest in expanding hunting and fishing opportunities at Big Oak.
3. Regulation of Exotic Animal Ownership in Indiana: Ann Sterling, State Director for the Humane Shelter, had indicated an interest in having the committee consider HB 1472 ,which pertains to the regulation of exotic animal ownership.
4. Impact of the Elimination of the Dog Tax on Incident Reporting of Coyote Attacks: Billy Fay, Sunman, indicated that the elimination of the dog tax last year in Dearborn County affected the reporting of incidents of coyote attacks.
5. Senior Fishing License: Dick Mercier, Indiana Sportsman's Roundtable, proposed adjustments to the statutory language pertaining to senior fishing licenses. Mr. Mercier would like for the law to allow those 65 and over to purchase a license if they so choose. Some individuals, such as himself, would purchase a license even though he is exempt because he wants the state to gain access to the federal reimbursement that is available to the state for each license sold. The federal reimbursement rate per license is around \$7. However, this figure changes each year.
6. Logger Licensing and Best Management Practices: Ray Moistner, Hardwood Lumber Association, asked that the committee considered logger licensing.

Other Topics Offered by Committee Members:

Spotlighting Deer. Rep Cherry suggested that the committee may wish to review issues pertaining to the spotlighting of deer, if conservation officers are interested.

Fishing and Hunting License. Rep Cherry mentioned adjustments to fishing and hunting licenses. The committee may wish to consider a multi-year license or adjusting the format of the license. For example, the expiration date could be more clearly displayed.

Falls of the Ohio State Park Foundation. Sen Lewis would like the committee to consider the work of the Foundation. The Foundation would like to change a display at the Falls that has not been changed for 17 years. The Foundation has already received some pledges from private sources.

Retention and Recruitment of Hunting Licenses Holders. Jack Corpus, Pheasants Forever, would like the committee to discuss hunting apprentice programs that would allow youth to hunt with a mentor without the youth having completed the hunter education program and without the youth having a license.

Great Lakes Compact. John Goss, Indiana Wildlife Federation, would like to share with the committee the progress that has been made on the Great Lakes Compact, which would provide monitoring of water usage from the Great Lakes.

Other discussion. Glenn Pratt, Sierra Club, encouraged the committee to review the Great Lakes Compact, invasive species, and the impact of invasive species on native critters.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m.